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Siemens Corporation
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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Haguet, et al. : DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 10/508,922 :
Filed: September 23, 2004 :
Atty. Dkt. No.: 2002P04668WOUS :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed February 20, 2007, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)." This is not a final agency decision.

This application became abandoned October 27, 2006 for failure to timely reply to the non-final Office action mailed July 26, 2006. The non-final Office action set a three (3) month statutory period of time for reply. This decision precedes Notice of Abandonment.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(1); (3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) was unavoidable; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c).

The present petition lacks requirement (3) above. Petitioners have failed to present a showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) was unavoidable.

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The Office may revive an abandoned application if the delay in responding to the relevant outstanding Office requirement is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner to have been "unavoidable." See, 37 CFR 1.137(a)(3). Decisions on reviving abandoned applications have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable. Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (Comm'r Pat. 1887) (the term "unavoidable" "is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business"); In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (D.C. Cir. 1912); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (Comm'r Pat. 1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a "case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account." Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). A petition to revive an application as unavoidably abandoned cannot be granted where petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing the cause of the unavoidable delay. Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 5 USPQ2d 1130 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

Petitioners attribute the failure to timely reply to the non-final Office action to non-receipt.

In the absence of any irregularity in the mailing of the non-final Office, there is a strong presumption that the non-final Office action was properly mailed to the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the non-final Office action was not in fact received. The showing required to establish non-receipt of an Office communication must include a statement that the Office communication was not received and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office communication was not received. A copy of the docket record where the non-received Office communication would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in the statement. See, MPEP 711.03(c). The showing outlined above may not be sufficient if there are circumstances that point to a conclusion that the Office communication may have been lost after receipt rather than a conclusion that the Office communication was lost in the mail.

Office records indicate the Office communication was properly mailed to the correspondence address of record at the time of

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mailing. Accordingly, there was no irregularity in mailing the Office communication on the part of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The instant petition is not accompanied by any evidence to support petitioners' contention of non-receipt of the non-final Office action. Any renewed petition must include supporting documentation to establish non-receipt of the non-final Office action.

ALTERNATE VENUE

Petitioners may wish to consider filing a petition stating that the delay was unintentional. Petitioners' attention is directed to 37 CFR 1.137(b) which provides for the revival of an "unintentionally" abandoned application without a showing that the delay in prosecution or in late payment of an issue fee was "unavoidable." An "unintentional" petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the required petition fee and reply.

The filing of a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) cannot be intentionally delayed and therefore must be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay cannot make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the delay from the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioner intentionally delayed the filing of a petition for revival under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail:

Mail Stop Petition

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By facsimile:

(571) 273-8300

By hand delivery:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, **Mail Stop Petition**
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street

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Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3205.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alesia M. Brown', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Alesia M. Brown
Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions